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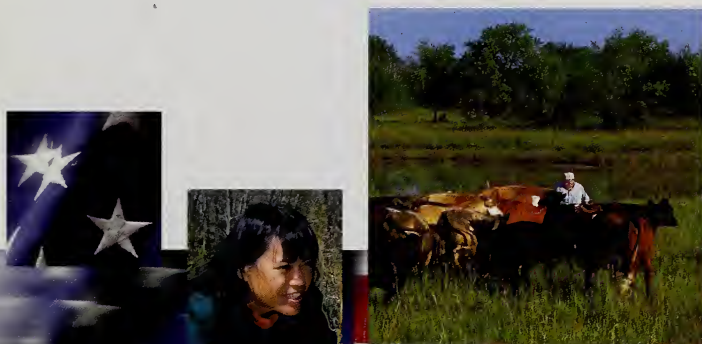
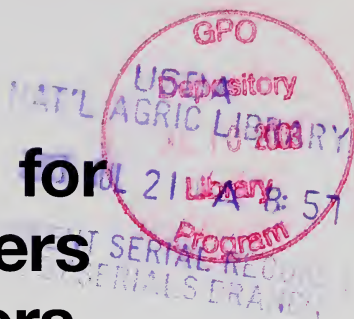
United States
Department of
Agriculture

Small Farms
Coordination

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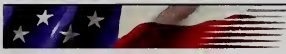
Information for Small Farmers and Ranchers



Small Farms@USDA
www.usda.gov/oce/smallfarm/

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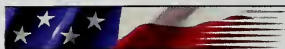
Introduction

Enhancing the viability and economic livelihood of America's small farmers and ranchers is one of USDA's top priorities. The Department's small farms coordinators represent all USDA agencies. This brochure is dedicated to the 2-million-plus small farmers/ranchers across the country. The brochure has vital information and contacts that will assist small farmers/ranchers in obtaining USDA's programs and services. These programs and services are critical to the quality of life of small farmers and ranchers in sustaining their operation. Hopefully, information in this brochure will help small farmers and ranchers respond to the challenges of 21st century agriculture.

Alfonzo Drain

*Director, USDA Small Farms
Coordination*





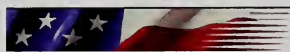
Agricultural Marketing Service

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is working to identify and promote the development of marketing opportunities for small farms by conducting and supporting research and providing information on farmer direct marketing activities. As part of this effort, AMS maintains a direct marketing Internet web page (www.ams.usda.gov/directmarketing.htm) and updates the farmers market directory every 2 years. Through the Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP), AMS provides matching funds to State departments of agriculture or other State agencies for a wide range of research and service projects aimed at improving the marketing and distribution of agricultural products.

For More Information:

Call AMS Transportation and Marketing Programs at 202-690-1300 or visit the AMS web page at www.ams.usda.gov/cnd/.





Agricultural Research Service

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS), USDA's principal in-house research agency, is responsible for solving agricultural problems of national importance. ARS research addresses a wide range of problems related to food and agriculture—problems often requiring long-term commitment of resources and problems unlikely to have solutions with the quick commercial payoff



that would convince private industry to do the research. This mission includes research to ensure high-quality, safe food and other agricultural commodity production, enhance the natural resource base and the environment while sustaining a competitive agricultural economy, assess the nutritional needs of Americans, and provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole. In addition to serving this broad range of needs through collaborative research with universities and other partners, ARS provides research to support Federal action and regulatory agencies.

Most ARS research is size-neutral and relevant to small farmers and ranchers as it is to large corporate producers. ARS also has projects at several locations devoted specifically to solving problems faced by small farms. Among these:

- Research at Booneville, AR; Lane, OK; and Beaver, WV, concentrates on small farms and improving economic efficiency and environmental sustainability. The current research focus is on livestock and grazing lands management, agroforestry, and alternative crops.
- Organic and sustainable farming systems research at Davis and Salinas, CA; Beltsville, MD; Poplarville, MS; Weslaco, TX; and Madison, WI, includes integrated pest management, development of new plant varieties, and on-farm research on a range of vegetable, fruit, vineyard, and grain crops.

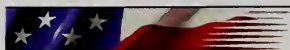


- Alternative farming systems research include crops, livestock, and conservation components within a sustainable agroecosystem framework at Ames, IA; Morris, MN; Lincoln, NE; and Mandan, ND.

- The Alternative Farming Systems Information Center, National Agricultural Library, specializes in information related to alternative cropping systems including sustainable, organic, low-input, biodynamic, and regenerative agriculture. See www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/.

For More Information:

For the full range of ARS research locations, programs, projects, and points of contact, see www.ars.usda.gov



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) makes a significant contribution to the volume and value of the Nation's food supply by protecting the health of U.S. agriculture. The agency's programs integrate national animal and plant monitoring, disease surveillance, epidemiology, emergency response, and information delivery to ensure the marketability of U.S. agricultural products, and managing problems caused by wildlife. APHIS is proactive and creative in its efforts to help small farmers. By focusing on product and program delivery, APHIS strives to ensure that its program activities support USDA's goal of enhancing the economic livelihood of small farms.

For More Information:

Call the Small Farm Coordinator at 301-734-7710 or visit the web site: www.aphis.usda.gov





Office of Civil Rights

Working to facilitate fair and equitable treatment of USDA customers and employees, and ensure the delivery and enforcement of civil rights programs and activities—As part of this effort, the Office of Civil Rights (CR):

- Develops civil rights programs and equal employment opportunity policies;
- Provides coordination, leadership, oversight, guidance, and technical assistance within USDA and its programs; and
- Enforces compliance with civil rights laws and regulations.
- Ensures that USDA policies and practices have no disparate impact on small, limited-resource, and minority farmers;

The Secretary's civil rights policy statement sets forth her firm commitment to ensuring USDA's compliance with civil rights and equal employment opportunity for everyone regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, political beliefs, parental status, or protected genetic information. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)



CR Highlights:

- Conducted expedited reviews of the Farm Bill regulations;
- Developed guidance on Limited English Proficiency to provide language services to program participants;
- Reached long-term improvement milestones for complaint processes and systems development;
- Instituted new processes to increase efficiency and expedite timely response to customers;
- Increased staff resources to help close the resource gap and help improve the statutory time-line for complaint processing;
- Developed procedures to streamline the complaint pre-investigation process; and
- Established an Intake Unit to improve efficiency in processing incoming complaints.

Diversity training has been provided to managers and supervisors to enhance the sensitivity and understanding of diversity, to better manage diversity, and to identify how diversity relates to making USDA a high-performance agency.

For More Information:

Visit CR's web page at www.usda.gov/da/cr



Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service's (CSREES) vision sees agriculture as a knowledge-based, global enterprise, sustained by the innovation of scientists and educators. CSREES advances knowledge for agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, and communities through a national network of land-grant university State partners which link research, science, and technology to people's needs at home and at work. Partners include State small farm program coordinators, public and private sectors, including farmers, community-based organizations, and foundations.

CSREES scientists provide national leadership through diverse program initiatives and competitive grant programs which support the food and agricultural sciences. Research, Extension, and education efforts address:

- Animal, plant, and human health/nutrition,
- Invasive species,
- Small farms,
- Pest management,
- Food safety/security,
- Tropical/subtropical agriculture,
- Water quality,
- Biobased products,
- Sustainable agriculture,
- Natural resource management,
- Forestry,
- International exchange,
- Disaster education, and
- Global change.

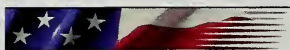




CSREES produces the *Small Farm Digest* newsletter which disseminates direct marketing and other timely information to 15,000 subscribers, including Congress, farmers, ranchers, and those who work with farmers and ranchers at Federal, State, and local levels. CSREES also provides leadership for train-the-trainer regional and national small farm conferences.

For More Information:

Call the CSREES National Program Leader for Small Farms, USDA/CSREES/Economic and Community Systems (ECS), Ag Box 2215, Washington, DC 20024-2215; phone: 202-401-4385; e-mail: debodaghe@reeusda.gov; Small Farm website: www.reeusda.gov/smallfarm/
CSREES Small Farm Hotline: 1-800-583-3071



Economic Research Service

The Economic Research Service (ERS) provides objective, relevant, and timely economic data and analysis on critical issues involving agriculture, food, natural resources, and rural affairs. ERS staff develop summary economic information on small farms for use by policy makers, regulators, program managers, and the general public. The agency also pursues an ongoing research program on small farms, including:

- Factors affecting small farm success
- Tracing the emergence of viable businesses from startup small farms
- Entry and exit of farms
- Small cattle operations
- Land resources in small farms
- Family Farm Report: a comprehensive statistical report on U.S. farms
- The extent of contracting in U.S. agriculture

For More Information:

Visit the Farm Structure Briefing Room

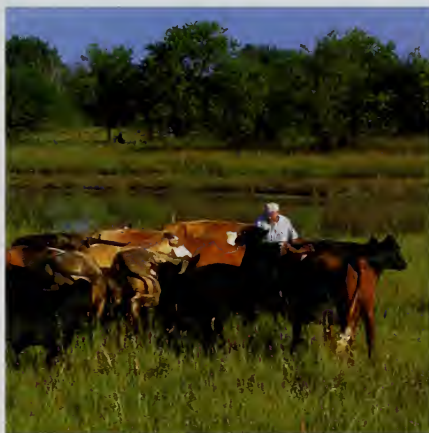
(www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/FarmStructure/) or contact the ERS Small Farm Coordinator at 202-694-5610.





Farm Service Agency

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) helps small farmers and ranchers stabilize farm income, works with them to conserve land and water, and provides loans to new and disadvantaged family-size farmers and ranchers. Among the continuing benefits of the mandated programs carried out by the FSA are direct payments, loan opportunities, disaster recovery, commodity services, and conservation measures. In addition to implementing these historical programs, new provisions in the 2002 Farm Security and Rural Investment Act (2002 Farm Bill) will be in place until 2007.



FSA lends money and provides credit counseling and supervision to eligible applicants who operate family-size farms. A family-size farm is considered to be one that a family can operate and manage itself. Under the Guaranteed Loan Program, FSA guarantees loans made by conventional agricultural lenders for up to 95 percent of any loss. FSA's direct loans include ownership, operating, emergency, youth, and Indian-land acquisition.

Under the 2002 Farm Bill, the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program provides payments to eligible producers of feed grains, wheat, upland cotton, rice, soybeans, other oilseeds, and peanuts. Direct payments are issued regardless of market prices, and counter-cyclical payments are issued if effective prices are less than the target prices set in the 2002 Farm Bill.

For More Information:

For small farm information, call 202-690-1700. For loans to beginning farmers, call 202-720-1632. Additional information can be obtained from USDA FSA Public Affairs, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Stop 0506, Washington, DC, 20250-0506. Further information and applications for FSA programs are available at local FSA Service Centers and on the website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

FSA offices are usually listed in telephone directories under U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency.



Food and Nutrition Service

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) oversees the administration of several nutrition assistance programs that benefit small farmers and community-supported agricultural programs. Under the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), participants in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) receive coupons to purchase fresh produce from farmers' markets. The FMNP was created to provide fresh, nutritious, unprepared foods (such as fruits and vegetables) from farmers' markets to WIC participants, and to expand the awareness and use of farmers' markets by consumers.

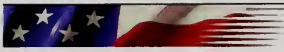
Under the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP), low-income seniors receive coupons or shares to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from farmers' markets, roadside stands, and/or community-supported agricultural programs. The SFMNP serves two worthy goals—improving the health of low-income elderly and increasing the awareness and use of farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community-supported agricultural programs.

FNS also encourages small or limited-resource farmers/ranchers to sell fresh fruits and vegetables to schools participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. Both schools and small farmers benefit—schools can provide children with fresh, tasty, nutritious produce while small farmers acquire new markets.

For More Information:

On WIC, FMNP, or the SFMNP, call 703-305-2746 or visit the website at www.fns.usda.gov/wic/. For additional information about Child Nutrition Programs, please call 703-305-2590 or visit the website at www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/.





Food Safety and Inspection Service

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) offers support for small farmers and ranchers through the Animal and Egg Production Food Safety Staff (AEPFSS). AEPFSS provides agency leadership in identifying food safety concerns associated with animal production; transportation, marketing, and pre-slaughter preparation of livestock and poultry; and egg production. AEPFSS is actually concerned with the “farm” portion of the “farm-to-table food safety” concept, including sale barns, feedlots, transportation of live animals, and any other food safety activity before the animal reaches the packinghouse.



AEPFSS is responsible for research coordination, producer education, liaison, and collaboration/outreach activities to develop and sustain Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP)-based food safety risk reduction strategies in animal and egg production. These activities are described below:

Research

Support and focus applied research on food animal production practices that will support HACCP implementation and reduce physical, chemical, and microbiological hazards in food animals and eggs destined for processing.

Education/Information

Provide food safety education and information, such as HACCP Quality Assurance and HACCP Quality Certification Procedures, to food animal producers, veterinarians, extension personnel, and other parties who impact the opinions and practices of food animal producers by:

1. Developing producer educational materials, curricula, and programs that demonstrate the importance of food safety at the animal production level, and guiding students and food animal producers in the use of production practices that reduce residue and pathogen hazards in animals going to slaughter;

2. Presenting information on food safety and good production practices at meetings of producer organizations and groups of producers, veterinarians, and other people who affect food animal production; and

3. Encouraging and assisting universities, State agencies, and professional and industry organizations in the development and delivery of food safety materials and programs to producers.

Liaison

Establish and maintain effective liaison with a wide range of organizations, agencies, and groups which have competence and interest in food safety at the production level. Provide a credible FSIS voice and an ear within groups which impact the level of food safety on the farm such as the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, National Pork Board, National Milk Producers Federation, American Sheep Industry, and other national producer organizations, as well as their State and Federal counterparts, when feasible.

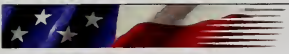
Collaboration/Outreach

Develop working partnerships with numerous stakeholders in order to enhance food safety at the farm level. Partnerships are critical to the effort to reach and affect the behavior of the 1-million-plus producers of food animals and eggs. AEPFSS partnerships are supported by FSIS cooperative agreements that have included over 29 States and over 10 minority colleges and universities over the years.

For More Information:

Contact the Animal and Egg Production Food Safety Staff, FSIS Small Farm Coordinator at 202-720-4768 or visit our website at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/animalprod/apfshome.htm>





Foreign Agricultural Service

The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) administers market development and assistance programs designed to build new markets and improve the competitive position of the U.S. food and agricultural sector, including fish and forest products.

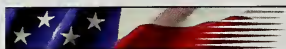
FAS programs help U.S. exporters develop and maintain markets overseas for hundreds of food and agricultural products, from bulk commodities to brand-name items. For example, the Market Access Program (MAP), a cost-share program with non-profit U.S. agricultural trade associations, agricultural cooperatives, non-profit State-regional trade groups, and small businesses, helps finance the costs of overseas marketing and promotional activities such as consumer promotions, market research, trade shows, and trade servicing. Export Credit Guarantee Programs encourage exports to buyers in countries where credit is necessary to maintain or increase U.S. sales, but where financing may not be available without such credit guarantees. FAS also provides assistance to exporters through practical marketing information and services to help them locate buyers.

FAS maintains a worldwide agricultural intelligence network that covers changes in policies and assists U.S. exporters with marketing opportunities. FAS enhances U.S. agricultural competitiveness by providing linkages to world resources and international organizations.



For More Information:

Visit the FAS website at www.fas.usda.gov; or telephone 202-720-9509. Your local State department of agriculture also may provide export assistance.



Forest Service

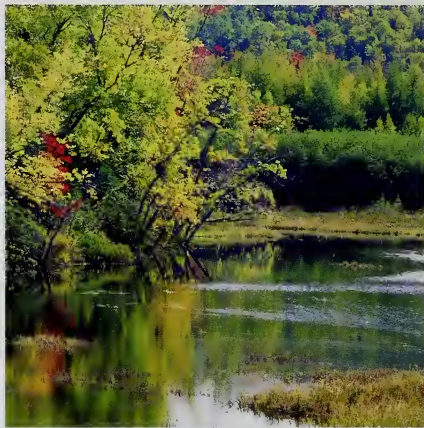
State and Private Forestry (S&PF) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) connects people to resources, ideas, and one another so they can care for forests and sustain their communities.

S&PF provides technical and financial assistance to help rural and urban citizens, including private landowners, care for forests and sustain the communities

where they live, work, and play. Through partnerships with State forestry organizations and many others, Federal funding is leveraged to help produce a variety of forest-based goods and services, such as recreation, water, wildlife and fish resources, timber, and a variety of non-timber products to meet domestic and international needs.

S&PF contributes to healthy forests and livable communities near and throughout our Nation's forests. There are nearly 500 million acres of non-Federal forest land in the United States, comprising about 20 percent of the Nation's land mass, and two-thirds of the Nation's forests. Over 50 percent of the Nation's forests are privately owned. Management practices on these lands impact the social, economic, and natural environment for everyone.

There are a variety of programs administered by the Forest Service for small farmers. Among these is the Forest Land Enhancement Program, which will provide financial, technical and educational assistance to non-industrial private forest (NIPF) landowners. Urban and Community Forestry assists the urban and community areas and the surrounding forest land with managing and protecting their forest and trees. The Forest Legacy Program secures the development rights of willing landowners to protect the land from



development and keep it as working forests. Economic Action Programs work through communities and organizations to promote the economy and private forestry activities. Forest Health and Protection monitors and treats land impacted by the various forest pests. Fire and Aviation Management helps States, volunteer fire departments, and communities build capacity for controlling fire and assists in wildfire suppression. Many programs on the national forest lands are also available to surrounding landowners and communities.

For More Information:

Call the Small Farm Coordinator at 202-205-1694 or view FS website at: www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/





Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) programs help small farmers of grain, oilseeds, and livestock. Technological advances, including biotechnology, are diversifying grain and oilseed quality. Value-added crops have the potential to create new market opportunities for small farms as end users seek suppliers of unique quality attributes.

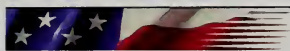


GIPSA programs help foster these market opportunities for America's small farmers. For example, GIPSA is developing the testing technology needed to measure these new quality attributes to promote open and fair price discovery—a farmer must know the quality of his crop to negotiate or demand a fair market price. GIPSA also is developing a process verification system to facilitate the marketing of specialty crops.

GIPSA also promotes fair and competitive markets for livestock, meat, and poultry by enforcing the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921 (P&S Act). The P&S Act requires prompt and full payment for livestock and poultry. Livestock buyers subject to the P&S Act are required to maintain a bond or bond equivalent to cover their livestock purchases. Livestock auction markets must establish and maintain a custodial (trust) account for payment to livestock sellers. Packer and poultry trusts established by the P&S Act give unpaid cash sellers of livestock and poultry growers and sellers first claim to trust assets in the event of nonpayment. The P&S Act and its regulations also require subject entities to weigh livestock and poultry accurately.

For More Information:

To share concerns or to lodge a complaint about a payment or other problem, please call GIPSA's toll-free number 800-998-3477 or visit the website: www.gipsa.usda.gov



National Agricultural Statistics Service

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) serves the basic agricultural and rural data needs of the country by providing objective, important, and accurate statistical information and services to farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses, policy officials, and the public. Timely and accurate data are vital to monitoring the ever- changing agricultural sector and carrying out farm policy. NASS also conducts the Census of Agriculture every 5 years, which is the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the United States. Agricultural statistics are an excellent tool for telling the story of small farmers and ranchers.

For More Information:

NASS publications are available at its website www.usda.gov/nass/ or call the Agricultural Statistics Hotline at 1-800-727-9540.





Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is proud to be a partner in conservation with private land managers, conservation districts, resource conservation and development (RC&D) area councils, State and local governments, Tribal governments, rural communities, businesses, and others. This partnership has helped conserve natural resources and increase agricultural productivity while improving the environment and enhancing the quality of life.

Assistance Available

NRCS has more than 65 years of experience in helping land users plan and install conservation practices to reduce soil erosion, improve soil and water, enhance air quality, improve and restore woodlands and wetlands, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, improve pasture and rangeland, and reduce upstream flooding.

- **Conservation Plans**—NRCS can help develop a conservation plan, a record of your decisions on how you plan to manage the natural resources on your land. A conservation plan will include a land use map, soils information, inventory of resources, engineering notes,





and other supporting information. It is your plan, based on your goals. NRCS will help you develop a plan at no cost.

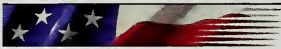
- **Applying Practices**—Through local conservation districts, farmers and ranchers can get assistance from NRCS in planning and applying conservation practices. These practices include conservation tillage, waterways, terraces, strip cropping, windbreaks, and irrigation water management. There may be financial assistance opportunities available to share in the cost of the practices.

- **Diversifying Farm/Ranch Income**—Your RC&D area office can help you discover opportunities for diversifying into new enterprises or expanding those that you already have. Together you will assess the natural, economic, and social resources of your operation.

For More Information:

Contact your local Conservation District, RC&D area office, or NRCS office at 202-720-2847.

Web site address: www.nrcs.usda.gov



Office of Outreach

Meeting the Challenge to Provide Excellence in Customer Service—

The proactive effort to ensure that USDA programs and services are accessible to all constituents, including the under-served.

USDA Office of Outreach provides leadership, coordination, facilitation and expertise to internal and external partners to ensure equal and timely access to USDA programs for all constituents, with emphasis on the under-served.



Outreach Core Functions

- Leadership,
- Coordination,
- Education and Training, Program Delivery and Customer Service, and
- Outreach Research and Evaluation.

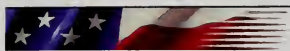
Outreach serves as the focal point and clearinghouse to coordinate and implement USDA outreach-related activities.

The Office develops and maintains effective vehicles for internal and external coordination and sharing of activities and information.

Outreach develops, manages, coordinates, and supports national-level outreach initiatives, programs, and activities that provide information and technical assistance and training to under-served constituents.

For More Information:

Call toll free 1-800-880-4183 or 202-720-6350 or send fax, 202-720-7489 to reach the Small Farm Coordinator at 202-720-6078. Visit our website at: www.usda.gov/agency/outreach



Risk Management Agency

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) administers the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) programs and promotes the national welfare by improving the economic stability of agriculture through a secure system of crop insurance and risk management tools. In 2002, crop insurance was available on 116 different crops in over 3,000 counties covering all 50 States,

and Puerto Rico. The number of insurable crops and commodities and types of insurance plans continues to increase annually.

RMA meets the crop insurance and risk management needs of the Nation's small and limited-resource farmers and ranchers through a network of public and private-sector partners. Together, RMA and these partners create new crop insurance and risk management products, provide risk management education and outreach, and ensure program accessibility and integrity.



Information Available

Buying a crop insurance policy is one risk management option a producer can make. Producers should consider how a policy will work in conjunction with their other risk management strategies to ensure the best possible outcome each crop year. Another option is to learn more about risk management strategies in the area of marketing, production, human, and financial risk. The RMA website at www.rma.usda.gov provides information on crop insurance, risk management education and outreach opportunities for producers.

For More Information:

Call the Small Farm Coordinator at 202-720-6685 or the National Outreach Manager at 202-690-2686.



Rural Development

Building a stronger, more economically vibrant rural America through the development of improved housing, community facilities, utilities, businesses, and cooperatives is the mission of Rural Development.

Rural Development plays a significant role in providing a wide range of financial and technical assistance to rural residents, including small farmers and ranchers, as well as rural businesses, cooperatives, communities, and American Indian tribal groups. These services are provided both through long-existing programs and new programs authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill. Rural Development is also a rural advocacy agency that promotes healthy, sustainable local communities through economic development.

Rural Development is comprised of three agencies: the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Rural Housing Service, and Rural Utilities Service. Their programs are offered to the public through a national network of State and field offices and the Rural Development national office.

New Rural Development Programs of the 2002 Farm Bill

- Value-added agriculture producer grants
- Value-added innovation centers
- Farm energy improvements and production loans and grants
- Rural Business investment funds
- Broadband access in rural America
- National Rural Development Partnership

New Initiative:

Five-Star commitment to improving single-family lending to rural minority families.

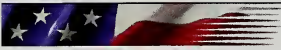


For more information:

Call the Small Farm Coordinator at (202) 690-3407.

You can be connected to your Rural Development State office by calling (202) 720-4323.

Further information on Rural Development can also be obtained by contacting your local USDA Service Center or by visiting USDA's web site at: www.rurdev.usda.gov



Rural Business-Cooperative Service

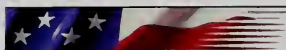
Strengthening the business sector and the farmer- and rancher-owned cooperatives of rural America is the goal of Rural Development's business/cooperative programs. Rural Development's business programs include a number of loan, guaranteed loan, and grant programs that can help start or expand rural businesses, often creating jobs in areas where they are badly needed. For example, the Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan program works with the private lending sector to stimulate business development in rural areas. Rural Development typically guarantees up to 80 percent of the original loan amount, providing lenders with another tool to expand their loan portfolio. While B&I Guaranteed Loans cannot be used for production agriculture or ranching, the B&I Cooperative Stock Purchase Program can help producers purchase stock in a co-op that will produce value-added goods from their crops or livestock.

The Value-Added Development Grant program uses a competitive application process to annually award grants to support development of innovative, value-added products made from U.S. agricultural products. Through its programs for cooperatives, Rural Development provides research, cooperative education materials, technical assistance (including help developing new co-ops) and collects statistics about U.S. agricultural co-ops. Rural Development also works with 1890 land-grant colleges to help build small business capacity.

For More Information:

Call 202-720-7287 for business programs or 202-720-7558 for cooperative programs, or visit our website at:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/>



Rural Housing Service

The Rural Housing Service (RHS) is a Rural Development Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. RHS helps rural communities and individuals by providing loans and grants for housing and community facilities. Through our many programs, RHS provides financing for rental housing at affordable prices and rental assistance for the elderly, the homeless, farm laborers, and people whose incomes are less than those of most of their neighbors. RHS

offers programs that help build many useful community facilities, such as community centers, schools, fire stations, libraries and child care centers. RHS programs can also provide people in rural areas with loans and grants for repairing their homes or buying or building new ones. In partnership with many other organizations, RHS creates packages of technical assistance for projects. This leveraging and partnering stretches resources to benefit more rural individuals and communities.



For More Information:

Please call our national office at 202-690-1533 or visit our website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs

Rural Utilities Service

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is a Rural Development agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The agency's mission is to serve a leading role in improving the quality of life in rural America by administering its electric, telecommunications, and water and waste programs in a service-oriented, forward-looking, and financially responsible manner.

Through loans and grants, RUS helps rural America finance infrastructure projects of electric, telecommunications, and water and wastewater. These infrastructure utilities have been taken for granted in American cities since at least the 1920s. However, if you lived in a rural area as little as 60 years ago, chances are you went without these necessities of modern life and the high standard of living they made possible. Then RUS, working with rural cooperatives, non-profit associations, public bodies and for-profit utilities, began bringing these modern services of electricity, telephone, and water and waste disposal to rural America through some of the most successful government initiatives in American history.

Today, RUS carries on this tradition, helping rural utilities expand and keep their technology up-to-date, and helping establish new and vital services such as distance learning and telemedicine.

RUS is also a rural advocacy agency, promoting healthy, sustainable local communities through economic development and policy and planning initiatives.

For More Information:

Call 202-720-1255 or visit the RUS website at www.usda.gov/rus





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